

## REPORTABLE INCIDENTS | WHS MINES LEGISLATION

# Weekly incident summary

Published 27 April 2016

Note: While the majority of incidents are reported and recorded within a week of the event, some are notified outside this time period. The incidents in this report therefore have not necessarily occurred in a one week period. All newly recorded incidents, whatever the incident date, are reviewed by the Chief Inspector and senior staff each week and summarised in this report. For more comprehensive statistical data refer to our [Annual Performance Measures Reports](#).

### Reportable incidents total

Level 1 incidents	Level 2 incidents	Level 3 incidents
32	7	0

Note: Incidents are categorised as Level 1, 2 or 3 according to the seriousness of the incident, with 3 being the most serious.

Injuries	Fatalities
13	0

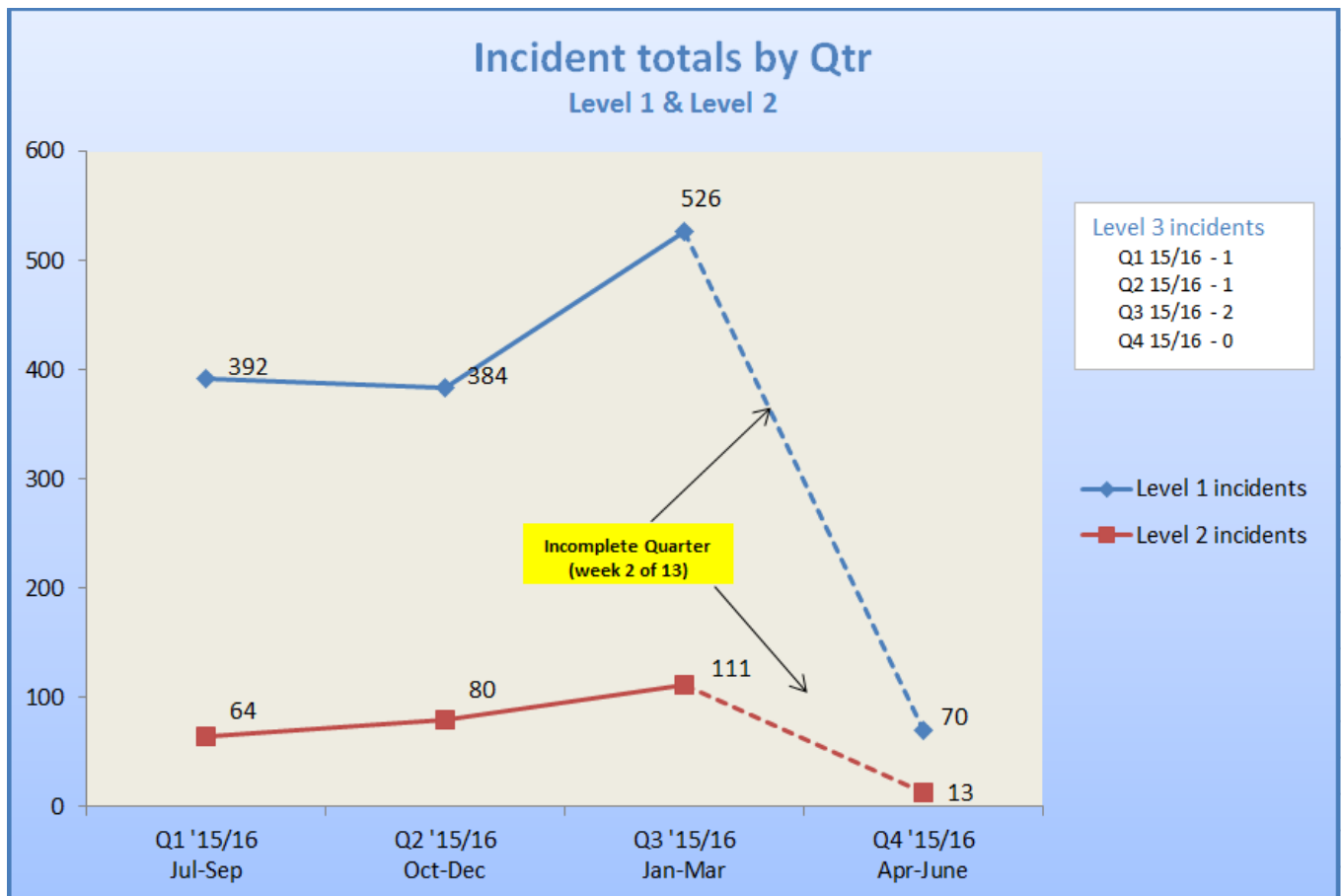
### Reportable incidents overview

Note: While all incidents are investigated, generally only level 2 and 3 incidents are summarised below.

Level	Incident type	Summary	Comment to industry
2	WORK ENVIRONMENT 317660262001	Contract employee's right hand became jammed between 2 regulator doors when an unsecured door shut under ventilation pressure.	<p>Mine operators should review their ventilation control device standards to ensure controls to prevent such an unplanned door closure are in place. Such controls may include a chain or other means to securing open doors and signage. All underground personnel should be made fully aware of the risk and controls.</p> <p>It is recommended an engineering control be considered that would secure the door without the person having to remember to manually attach a chain or other such means.</p>
2	ELECTRICAL ENERGY 317660264001	1000v electrical cable jammed on cable reeler and flashed when moved.	<p>Mine operators are urged to re-enforce with their workforce that just because a machine appears to be un-powered does not mean it is effectively isolated. Before working on / removing damaged trailing cables from mobile equipment, such cables need to be de-energised and physically removed from their source of supply and appropriate safety tags applied to the cable. This is particularly the case with machines that can start automatically.</p>

Level	Incident type	Summary	Comment to industry
2	WORK ENVIRONMENT 317660252001	Hot engine oil flowed onto a fitters arm causing superficial burns. The fitter was attempting to take an oil sample from a dump truck by undoing the oil filler cap. The oil reservoir was overfull and oil flowed out onto the fitters arm.	<p>Mines should have in place processes that remove the need for the tradesperson to directly access the engine bay to take samples of hot engine oil, such as a remotely mounted sampling point.</p> <p>Procedures should be in place that allow for the engine to cool down before removing the engine oil filler cap.</p> <p>Mines should reinforce the need to check sight glasses and other indicators for fluid levels before removing filler caps.</p> <p>Tradespersons should wear gloves and long sleeve shirts when removing oil filler caps.</p>
2	STRATA GROUND CONTROL (COMPLAINT) 317660280001	Information was provided indicating tension cracks on the surface beside the wall of an open cut opal mine, making the wall potentially unstable.	<p>Regular checks should be made on the surface adjacent to wall faces and any signs of instability should be remediated or, depending on the circumstance, controlled.</p> <p>Control actions may include exclusion zones to prevent any person / machinery being able to access an area at risk of being struck by falling material.</p>
2	MECHANICAL EQUIPMENT 317660258001	A scraper hauling topsoil rolled over when the operator lost control on a wet road surface. Operator did not sustain any injury as a result of the incident.	Mine operators should ensure that operator training and procedures provide instructions on driving equipment on wet roads. Road watering procedures should also include guidance on leaving dry-lines. Mobile equipment such as trucks and scrapers should be fitted with speedometers.
2	ELECTRICAL ENERGY 317660290001	Operator reported that the pump motor on a flexible conveyor train would not stop when the remote control pump off function was being operated.	Radio remote controls for mining machines are required to be of the highest integrity and any failures to operate as expected requires investigation to identify the failure so the OEM/ user can continue to make improvements. Mines should enforce their Go/NoGo zones and review new technologies (proximity detection systems).
2	MECHANICAL EQUIPMENT 317660300001	<p>An underground truck was travelling down a decline when the operator attempted to stop.</p> <p>A stationary truck had been parked off the decline in decline access. The moving truck skidded approximately 10 metres on an excessively wet road and collided at low speed with the stationary truck and damaged a side cabin window.</p> <p>The road had been watered using a hose due to the water truck being unavailable.</p>	Road surface construction and maintenance should minimise the risk of creating excessively slippery surfaces on the application of water. Changing conditions should be monitored and reported to affected persons.

Level	Incident type	Summary	Comment to industry
2	MECHANICAL EQUIPMENT  317660324001	Steel beams supporting the zinc cleaner flotation cells tank in the concentrator have failed along one side of the tank and the tank has rolled to that side by approximately 5 degrees. It appears that the beams at one side of the tank have become corroded and have failed under the load of the tank.	Mines with ageing infrastructure, particularly in corrosive environments, should implement an appropriate inspection and maintenance regime, commensurate with potential risks and should be carried out by competent people in order to ensure, so far as is reasonably practicable, the provision and maintenance of safe plant and structures.



## Recent incident publications

Type	Identifier	Title	Date published
Incident Information Release	IIR16-03	<a href="#">Worker seriously injured in fall from dump truck</a>	21 April 2016

You can find all our incident related publications (i.e. safety alerts, safety bulletins, incident information releases, weekly incident summaries and investigation reports) on our [website](#).

---

## Further information

Should you wish to seek further information, please contact one of our offices:

### **COAL (NORTH) and EAST METEX**

#### **Maitland**

NSW Department of Industry  
Mineral Resources  
516 High Street, Maitland NSW 2320  
(PO Box 344, Hunter Region MC  
NSW 2310)  
T 1300 736 122 or 02 4931 6666  
F 02 4931 6790  
E [mine.safety@industry.nsw.gov.au](mailto:mine.safety@industry.nsw.gov.au)

### **COAL (SOUTH)**

#### **Wollongong**

NSW Department of Industry  
State Government Offices  
Level 3, Block F, 84 Crown Street,  
Wollongong NSW 2500  
(PO Box 674, Wollongong NSW 2520)  
T 02 4222 8333  
F 02 4226 3851

### **WEST METEX**

#### **Orange**

NSW Department of Industry  
161 Kite Street, Orange NSW 2800  
(Locked Bag 21, Orange NSW 2800)  
T 02 6360 5333  
F 02 6360 5363  
After hours – emergency only 02 6360 5343

---

© State of New South Wales through the Department of Industry, Skills and Regional Development 2015. You may copy, distribute and otherwise freely deal with this publication for any purpose, provided that you attribute the NSW Department of Industry, Skills and Regional Development as the owner.

Disclaimer: The information contained in this publication is based on knowledge and understanding at the time of writing (April 2016). However, because of advances in knowledge, users are reminded of the need to ensure that information upon which they rely is up to date and to check currency of the information with the appropriate officer of the NSW Department of Industry, Skills and Regional Development or the user's independent advisor.